

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A coupling for transmitting ultrasound energy along an independent axis (A) between a tool receptacle (2) and a tool (3) with two oppositely directed contact means (4a, 4b) facing and spaced from one another and capable of being prestressed axially by a prestressing means (5), wherein at least one of said contact means (4a, 4b) has at least one of an axially directed linear contact tip and a pointform contact tip (6).

2. (Currently amended) A coupling, as set forth in claim 1, wherein a plurality of contact tips (6) are spaced laterally apart forming at least one of said contact means (4a, 4b).

3. (Withdrawn) A coupling, as set forth in claim 1, wherein said contact means (4a, 4b) comprises ~~pointform~~ pointform contact tips (6) on each of said tool receptacle (2) and tool (3) directed into point contact with one another.

4. (Withdrawn) A coupling, as set forth in claim 1, wherein said contact tips ~~(6)~~ (6", 6"', 6''''') extend linearly.

5. (Withdrawn) A coupling, as set forth in claim 4, wherein said ~~said~~ linearly extending contact tips ~~(6)~~ (6') extending at least in part annularly.

6. (Withdrawn) A coupling, as set forth in claim 5, wherein said contact tips ~~(6)~~ (6') are ring shaped.

7. (Currently amended) A coupling, as set forth in claim 1, wherein said prestressing means (5) comprises an axially directed screw-thread biasing member.

8. (Currently amended) A coupling, as set forth in claim 7, wherein said screw thread biasing member extends axially from said tool ~~receptacle (2)~~ (3) into a threaded bore extending axially into said tool ~~(3)~~ receptacle (2).